

May 4, 2000

During any lapse in other insurance coverage, MediKids will automatically cover the children's health insurance needs (and premium will be owed for those months).

BENEFITS

Based on Medicare and the Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) benefits for children.

Prescription drug benefit.

The Secretary of HHS shall further develop age-appropriate benefits as needed as the program matures, and as funding support allows.

The Secretary shall include provisions for annual reviews and updates to the benefits, with input from the pediatric community.

PREMIUMS

Parents will be responsible for a small premium, one-fourth of the annual average cost per child, to be collected at income tax filing.

Parents will be exempt from the premium if their children are covered by comparable alternate health insurance. That coverage can be either private insurance or enrollment in other federal programs.

Families up to 150% of poverty will owe no premium. Families between 150% and 300% of poverty will receive a graduated discount in the premium. Each family's obligation will be capped at 5% of total income.

COST—SHARING (CO-PAYS, DEDUCTIBLES)

No cost-sharing for preventive and well child care.

No obligations up to 150% of poverty.

From 150% to 300% of poverty, a graduated refundable credit for cost-sharing expenses.

FINANCING

During the first few years, costs can be fully covered by tobacco settlement monies, budget surplus, or other funds as agreed upon.

During this time, the Secretary of Treasury has time to develop a package of progressive, gradual tax changes to fund the program, as the number of enrollees grows in the out-years.

MISCELLANEOUS

To the extent that the states save money from the enrollment of children into MediKids, they will be required to maintain those funding levels in other programs and services directed at the Medicaid population, which can include expanding eligibility for such services.

At the issuance of legal immigration papers for a child born after 12/31/01, that child will be automatically enrolled in the MediKids health insurance program.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AND THE CENTURY COUNCIL FOR THEIR WORK ON ALCOHOL 101

HON. THOMAS W. EWING

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, today I congratulate the Century Council for their dedication to the fight against drunk driving and underage drinking. The Century Council, in conjunction with the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, created Alcohol 101, an interactive CD-ROM program, which debuted on more than 1000 college campuses during the 1998–1999 school year.

This virtual reality program is geared towards college age students and hopes to prevent and reduce the harm caused by abusive drinking habits. Students at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, under the guidance of Professor Janet Reis, assisted in the development of this program by participating in focus groups and extensive surveys.

Thanks to the input of these students, thousands of college students across the country will be able to witness the negative consequences of abusive drinking. As a result, the students will be better prepared when confronting these situations in their daily lives.

Alcohol 101 has received high recognition from many health, education and communications competitions. Most recently, the program received the prestigious FREDDIE award in the area of Health and Medical Film Competition.

Mr. Speaker, this program is a great asset to universities across the country and I offer my sincerest congratulations to the Century Council and the University of Illinois.

HONORING BERNARD HARRIS, JR.,
M.D., M.B.A.

HON. KEN BENTSEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 4, 2000

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Dr. Bernard Harris, Jr., who on May 5, 2000 will receive the 2000 Horatio Alger Award.

Throughout his life Dr. Harris has shown that the simple principles of hard work, integrity, and perseverance can transform a young person's dreams into reality. When he was a child growing up on the Navajo nation reserva-

tion near Temple, Texas, Dr. Harris dreamed of becoming an astronaut. As Dr. Harris himself once said, "Dreams are simply the reality of the future."

That can-do spirit propelled Dr. Harris to become the first African-American to walk in space when *Discovery* hooked up with Russia's space station Mir. During the mission in 1995, as a NASA Payload Commander, he used his expertise to evaluate spacesuit improvements and space station assembly techniques.

In the years following his historic spacewalks, Dr. Harris has made it a point to encourage and inspire young people to reach for the stars. The foundation for his success, Dr. Harris always maintains, is education. I have had the opportunity to visit a school in my District with Dr. Harris as he explained flying the Shuttle, walking in space, and his determination to succeed. He is truly an inspiration to us all, but particularly to the children he addresses.

Dr. Harris worked hard in high school, then attended the University of Houston, earning his tuition by working as a research assistant. With a degree in biology, Harris went on to earn a doctorate in medicine from Texas Tech University's School of Medicine. He completed his residency in internal medicine at the Mayo Clinic and then a fellowship at the NASA Ames Research Center. He joined NASA as a clinical scientist and flight surgeon.

Dr. Harris was accepted to train as an astronaut for the space program. His first space mission was in 1993 aboard space shuttle *Columbia*. On that flight Dr. Harris carried into space the first Navajo item, a flag blessed by a Navajo medicine man. Dr. Harris left the space program in 1996, and continued his passion for higher learning and achievement. He earned two master's degrees in biomedical science and business administration, and now is vice president for Science and Health Services, SPACEHAB Inc. of Houston.

A true role model, Dr. Harris continues to take part in activities in Houston that positively impact children's lives. He has spoken to several school groups through Urban League and Black History Month activities. His message of inspiration is that "you can do and be anything." Dr. Harris is certainly living proof of that.

Mr. Speaker, it is a fitting that Dr. Harris has been chosen as a Horatio Alger Award winner. As an excellent role model for young people, he embodies the criteria of a modern-day hero who has shown that the American Dream is alive and achievable for those willing to work for it.

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